

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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| In the Matter of the Suspension |) | |
| |) | |
| of the Educator Certificate of |) | ORDER OF SUSPENSION |
| |) | (BREACH OF CONTRACT) |
| Jennifer R. Ketler |) | |
| |) | |
| Certificate 224126 |) | |

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on January 11, 2006. On October 17, 2005, the Department of Education (Department) sent Jennifer R. Ketler a notice of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Ms. Ketler received the notice, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt bearing her signature. Ms. Ketler did not request a hearing within the time frame specified in the notice letter. After considering the information presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Ketler's certificate for one year.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Ketler holds a valid South Carolina educator's certificate and has one year of teaching experience. She was under contract for the 2005-2006 school year with the Greenville County School District (District) and was assigned as an Art teacher at Welcome Elementary School. On September 8, 2005, Ms. Ketler notified her Principal in writing that she was resigning her position, effective September 16, 2005. On September 14, 2005, the District Superintendent notified Ms. Ketler that her resignation was not in compliance with District policy. Ms. Ketler did not return to work after September 16, 2005, and on September 27, 2005, the District Board of Trustees voted to request suspension of Ms. Ketler's certificate as a result of her breach of contract.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 59-25-150 and 160 (2004). Breach of contract is deemed to be unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that the information presented supports its determination that just cause exists to suspend Ms. Ketler's certificate 224126 for a period of one year, from January 11, 2006, through January 10, 2007. Should Ms. Ketler wish to have her certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Educator Certification.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Joe Isaac

Joe Isaac, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

January 11, 2006